

**AMENDMENTS****AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1 – 7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) ~~A method as recited in claim 1-A method of sampling internet protocol traffic over links of an internet protocol network comprising the steps of sampling packets at network traffic points as a function of an internet protocol packet content, and generating a packet label for each sampled packet, wherein said applied packet label comprises between 16 and 24 bits.~~

9. (currently amended) ~~A method as recited in claim 1-A method of sampling internet protocol traffic over links of an internet protocol network comprising the steps of sampling packets at network traffic points as a function of an internet protocol packet content, and generating a packet label for each sampled packet, wherein a sampling interval for a given period is determined by the upper bound of a sampled packet's expected lifetime.~~

10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) ~~A method as recited in claim 10-A method of sampling internet protocol traffic over links of an internet protocol network comprising the steps of sampling packets at network traffic points as a function of an internet protocol packet content, and generating a packet label for each sampled packet,~~

transmitting said generated label to a measurement system, and  
further comprising the step of multiplying the number of packet samples and the number  
of bits per sampled packet at a measurement system.

12. – 20. (cancelled)
21. (currently amended) Apparatus as recited in claim 12 Circuit apparatus for sampling  
internet protocol traffic over links of an internet protocol network for use in sampling  
traffic at network traffic points comprising  
a processor for computing a sampling function, responsive to the sampling function, for  
determining packets to be sampled, and for generating a label for each sampled packet, wherein  
said applied packet label comprises between 16 and 24 bits.
22. (currently amended) Apparatus as recited in claim 12 Circuit apparatus for sampling  
internet protocol traffic over links of an internet protocol network for use in sampling  
traffic at network traffic points comprising  
a processor for computing a sampling function, responsive to the sampling function, for  
determining packets to be sampled, and for generating a label for each sampled packet, said  
processor for determining a sampling interval by the upper bound of a sampled packet's expected  
lifetime.
23. (cancelled)
24. (currently amended) Apparatus as recited in claim 12 Circuit apparatus for sampling  
internet protocol traffic over links of an internet protocol network for use in sampling  
traffic at network traffic points comprising

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a processor for computing a sampling function, responsive to the sampling function, for determining packets to be sampled, and for generating a label for each sampled packet. said processor for multiplying the number of packet samples and the number of bits per sampled packet.

  
25. – 34. (cancelled)

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